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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Hiroyuki IMAI, et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/783,518

FILED: FEBRUARY 21, 2002

FOR: COLLECTOR FOR ALKALINE
SECONDARY BATTERY, METHOD FOR
MAKING THE SAME, AND ALKALINE....

:

: EXAMINER: TSANG FOSTER, S.

:

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1745

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated October 1, 2002, Applicants elect Group I - (claims 1-5 and 16-19), drawn to an alkaline battery having a current collector which includes a nonwoven fabric, classified in class 429, subclass 223 **with traverse** for prosecution in the present application.

Applicants traverses the outstanding Restriction Requirement as the outstanding Restriction Requirement has not established that an undue burden would be required if the Restriction Requirement was not issued and if all the claims were examined together. More particularly, MPEP §803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

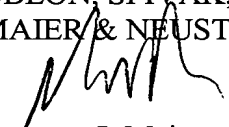
In the present application any search of the elected method claims would also include the classes and subclasses appropriate for searching the product and apparatus claims, and so then would be no undue burden if all of the claims were examined together.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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